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**FITCH HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® CONNECTICUT SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 9, 2010) — In its 25th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Brianna Turgeon of Fitch High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Connecticut Softball Player of the Year. Turgeon is the first Gatorade Connecticut Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Fitch High School.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the field, distinguishes Turgeon as Connecticut's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Turgeon joins an elite alumni association of past state award-winners in 12 sports, including Alicia Hollowell (2000-01, Fairfield HS, Calif.), Derek Jeter (1991-92, Kalamazoo HS, Mich.), Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central HS, Ill.), Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy, N.Y.), Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.), Angela Tincher (2002-03, James River HS, Va.) and Kenzie Fowler (2006-07, Canyon del Oro HS, Ariz.).

The 5-foot-4 junior shortstop batted .500 this season with 28 RBI, 23 runs scored and a three home runs, leading the Falcons (16-5) to the Class LL state tournament, where they eventually fell to Bristol Central, 10-4. A returning All-Area selection as named by *The New London Day* and *Norwich Bulletin*, Turgeon finished with a .382 batting average along with 26 RBI and two home runs as a sophomore, capturing Most Valuable Player honors in Fitch's 2009 Class LL state championship victory.

Also a soccer standout, Turgeon has maintained a 4.03 weighted GPA in the classroom. An invited participant in both LeadAmerica's Congressional Student Leadership Conference and the People to People International educational exploration program, she has volunteered locally on behalf of multiple community-service initiatives in association with the National Honor Society, Key Club International, Students Against Drunk Driving and the March of Dimes Foundation.

"For Brianna, the team always comes first," said Fitch Head Coach Kate Peruzzotti. "She does whatever she is asked without question. Her respect for the coaches and dedication to the team sets the tone. She plays for the love of the game. Stats mean nothing. She epitomizes what we want most in a high school athlete: A person who puts the team first, who plays with poise and class, and tries harder than any athlete I have encountered."

Turgeon has verbally committed to play softball on scholarship at the University of Connecticut beginning in the fall of 2011.

The Gatorade Player of the Year program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states that sanction high school football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, baseball, softball, and boys and girls track & field, and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. The selection process is administered by ESPN RISE and the Gatorade high school sports leadership team, which work with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Turgeon joins recent Gatorade Connecticut Softball Players of the Year Rachele Fico (2008-09 & 2007-08, Masuk) and Lauren Bepuda (2006-07, Amity) among the state's list of former award winners.

To keep up to date on the latest happenings, become a fan of Gatorade Player of the Year on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. For more on the Gatorade Player of the Year program, including nomination information, a complete list of past winners, and the announcement of the Gatorade National Player of the Year, visit playeroftheyear.gatorade.com.

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